

# *An Update from* Councilwoman Kathy Lambert

*Serving NE King County including Woodinville, Redmond, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Carnation, Sammamish, Duvall, Skykomish and Fall City*

This has been a very busy time. We have had many important issues before us. Being in the minority, we work hard to improve ordinances with amendments so they are more "citizen friendly."

As the major issues were addressed this week, we were busy working on amendments to the watershed plan, the tent city ordinance, and many others.

## **Election 2004**

The council has called for and provided funding for an outside, independent auditor to look at the many mistakes and procedures that need to be changed from the 2004 election.

This study should begin in the next few weeks and we hope to have a report back this fall. Also, a citizen's committee has been formed (or reformed from the basis of the previous committee) to oversee all elections through 2008.

Since my last update two more ballots have been "discovered" by the elections department!

## **Land Use** - How much of King County land do you think government ALREADY owns?

Over 46 percent of King County is already owned by a government entity and another 7% percent is protected through some sort of land trust having the development rights. So 53% of the land is controlled directly by a government agency.

We are protecting land for future generations, and we can continue to do so without infringing on the private property rights of our rural landowners. My concern is that so much land is being taken off the tax rolls and thereby causing taxes to be higher than necessary. We can work together to protect the environment without taking more land off the tax rolls.

## King County is now officially **MLK County**

In April, King County had its name officially changed by state law to Martin Luther King County. Eight years ago the name had been informally adapted to include MLK but now it is formal. The governor signed the bill into law in the first floor of the courthouse.

Some councilmembers were not informed of this decision being brought before the legislature. We are the only county in the state that has changed its name in the state law. As we go forward, I am concerned about the cost implications for this change. It may cost millions of dollars to change signs, letterhead, and other items currently using the official county logo. In addition,

they are checking on any implications for royalties to the MLK family for using the name. I wish these issues had been fully discussed here in King County prior to it being changed in state law.

### **Position Open on the King County Women's Advisory Board**

Please contact my office at 206-296-1003 if you would like to recommend someone for this position.

The King County Women's Advisory Board (WAB) makes recommendations to the King County Executive and the King County Council to ensure the needs, rights and well being of women are taken into account by County government.

### **Upcoming Events**

*Wastemobile coming to Woodinville*

May 13-15

10:00am to 5:00pm

17800 NE 140<sup>th</sup> Ave

Bring your pesticides, oil based paint, toxic cleaning products, fluorescent light bulbs, automotive batteries, propane tanks, aerosols etc.

### **Sammamish Arts Commission Design Contest**

The Sammamish Arts Commission is promoting their new sign design contest. You must submit a letter of interest, a resume and samples of your work by May 31.

The top three entrants will be given a \$100 honorarium to create a model, and the winning artists will receive \$4,700 to create the design.

Artists must be Northwest residents, be actively pursuing professional arts and have training in their specialty. Send submissions to:

Sammamish City Clerk Melanie Anderson  
486 228<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Sammamish, WA 98074

Call 425-836-7904 for more information.

### **District 3 Staff**

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(Russ is on leave to the city of Palo Alto, California)

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**Maria Harris**, Legislative Aide - (206) 296-1003  
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**Christine Jensen** is taking Russ's place while he is on leave  
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*Please feel free to forward this e-mail update to friends and colleagues.*

*If you would liked to be removed from this email update, please reply and*

*type "remove" in the subject line.*

*Thank you for your interest in King County government.*